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United States  
Department of  
Agriculture

Forest  
Service



# News Release

**U.S. Capitol Christmas Tree**  
USDA Forest Service, Colville National Forest  
765 S. Main Street, Colville, WA 99114

## Calling All Washington Schoolchildren!

**Approaching Deadline for Children to Help Decorate the 2013 U.S. Capitol Christmas Tree**

**Colville, WA** - The U.S. Forest Service is asking for the help of all Washington's children over the next 6 weeks to help decorate "The People's Tree" and make Washington State proud. With the approaching deadline of October 1, schoolchildren from all corners of Washington are asked to help make this year's tree from Washington State a success by creating handmade ornaments to adorn the Capitol Christmas Tree.

The people of Washington have been asked to contribute over 5,000 ornaments to decorate the Capitol Christmas Tree. The ornaments should be nine to 12 inches tall and must be made to withstand three weeks of harsh winter weather. Ornaments should reflect the theme "Sharing Washington's Good Nature." Recycled materials are encouraged. This is a great opportunity to spotlight our great state in front of the entire nation. As an added perk, one lucky child's name will be drawn to win a trip to Washington, D.C. to light the tree with the speaker of the house.

"While hundreds of handmade ornaments have arrived from Washington children, we need even more help to make sure the Capitol Christmas Tree looks beautiful for all the other children in the country," said the U.S. Capitol Christmas Tree Coordinator Jen Knutson. "I know with the help of our families, teachers and their students, Washington can create the most beautiful Christmas Tree in the nation!"

**-MORE-**

## **NEWS RELEASE**

*(continued)*

This year, an 88-foot tall Engelmann spruce tree from the Colville National Forest in Northeast Washington has been chosen to adorn the West Lawn of the Capitol Building in Washington, D.C. during the 2013 holiday season. The Capitol Christmas Tree will travel the country with 70 smaller “companion trees” that were grown throughout the state by private individuals and commercial tree growers. These trees are destined for display in offices and museums throughout our Nation’s Capital and all of the trees are in need of decoration.

For more information on how you or your child’s school can help, please see our website: [www.capitolchristmastree.com](http://www.capitolchristmastree.com) or contact ornament coordinator Mary Rourke at 509-775-7421 or by email at [mrourke@fs.fed.us](mailto:mrourke@fs.fed.us).

### **ABOUT THE U.S. CAPITOL CHRISTMAS TREE PROJECT**

In late November, the tree will arrive at the U.S. Capitol in Washington, D.C. where it will be placed in front of the Capitol Building and decorated with lights and thousands of handcrafted ornaments made by Washingtonians from across the State. In December, the speaker of the house and one Washington State student will light the tree to shine throughout the holiday season and viewed by visitors from around the world. For more information on the 2013 Capitol Christmas Tree, please visit [www.capitolchristmastree.com](http://www.capitolchristmastree.com), or contact Jen Knutson at 509-684-7254 or by email at [jenniferknutson@fs.fed.us](mailto:jenniferknutson@fs.fed.us)

Follow the 2013 Capitol Christmas Tree on Twitter and Facebook.

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